

# Garden Clubs

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Stephen's Church and members are obliged to attend, she said. In addition, every member has to work at least 10 hours a year on a community project sponsored by the club.

A member of the Federation of Garden Clubs, the Community Garden Club is rightfully named. Their projects are community based. One present project is the designing and landscaping of the grounds around the Lothrop House, the house on Summer Street presently undergoing conversion into a period museum by the Cohasset Historical Society. Gardens will be planted there by the club, as well, in keeping with the age of the house.

A continuing project is maintain the grounds with their old alliance, the Community Center — replacing shrubs, mowing and weeding.

Meeting programs cover a wide range of topics. Speakers are invited or members themselves conduct seminars on landscape design, planting and seeding, flower arranging, and plant identification. Informal house tours are sometimes included in activities. Fund raising activities are usually limited to one per year: some of those recent successes include the Christmas House Tour, the Antique Sale, and the publication of a cookbook written by members.

Contributions from the

club's funds are made to the Society, Arnold Arboretum, Wildflower Society, and more locally to the Black Pond Reservation, World's End and Whitney Woods. This year the Community Garden Club didn't have a display at the New England Flower Show, another project made possible by fundraising proceeds, but in past years the club has made a fine showing in Boston.

The club sends a local girl to Girl Scout camp each summer, and also presents a scholarship to a high school student who plans to continue study in any area of horticulture, forestry or landscape design.

The Junior Garden Club is the younger appendage of the Community Garden Club. They are children of garden club members who are eager to garden. They contribute their gardening talents to club projects, as well as exhibits to meetings and shows.

"All you need is interest," Mrs. Sturdy said of garden club membership in general. "It doesn't mean you have to have a green thumb or be a flower arranger."

## COHASSET GARDEN CLUB

Mrs. Eli Manchester, president of the Cohasset Garden Club which was founded in 1929, shares Mrs. Sturdy's philosophy about gardening. "You have to have a consuming interest in gardening," she said. "If you join a garden club, you basically like to get out and weed. You have to like it."

Mrs. Manchester also emphasized the club's preoccupation with conservation. Of the club's 53 members, the cap on membership as set forth by their membership in the Garden Club of America, Mrs. Manchester said that all are required to participate in activities and that all are ardent gardeners, with an eye toward preservation and the environment. The club is also in the Federation of Garden Clubs.

Like the Community Garden Club, the Cohasset Garden Club is affiliated with the town's Historical Society, through maintenance of the gardens around the Society's three museums on Elm Street.

A two-year project has recently been completed by the club — a major landscaping job in the front of the Joseph Osgood School.

An annual fundraiser is their plant/food/container sale held in the lot between Curtis Compact and the Corner Market.

The club meets eight times a year, during the warm months of March through

October. Topics discussed at the past year's meetings included landscaping, conservation, flower arranging and horticulture. There were also field trips to Wampatuck State Park and to the Flower Show in Boston.

Members hold in-club competitions, exhibiting what they've grown — be it vegetables or flowers — and they are judged by area judges. And this year the Cohasset Garden Club collectively received the Beacon Hill Garden Club Cup for their charming lily garden on display at the Flower Show.



Mrs. Manchester said the club has a project in the Boston show every three or four years; she feels that by submitting an exhibit, the club is also representing Cohasset and thereby doing the town a service.

"It's not all cocktails and luncheons, anymore," she said. "We try to remain service oriented. Members are more interested in conservation because the area is growing so fast and because of the general growing of conservation awareness nationwide."

Landscaping, for instance, Mrs. Manchester said, is regarded now as a type of insulation for homes. The club's workshops on woodstoves, pruning for better growth of vegetation, and interest in solar energy all point toward their ecology-mindedness.

Donations are made to many organizations, as well, including the Manomet Bird Observatory, the North and South River Watershed Association, the Wildflower Society, and the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, to name a few.

## AMATEUR CLUB

The Amateur Garden Club, newly headed by Mrs. James Shea, although not a member of a garden is a small and venerated organization founded in 1939. Mrs. Shea emphasized that the 30 member club is a "low-key" group.

"We just do what we want to do," she said, the only stipulation being that members must reside in Cohasset. The club's objective is to help

each other become better gardeners.

The club meets once a month at members' homes where committees on membership (members are inducted once a year), programs, publicity, conservation and horticulture, and nursing homes, report on their activities and coming events. This year the club has numerous lectures on birds, florists, and beekeeping.

A particular interest of the Amateur Garden Club is in serving the Ripley Road Nursing home. This year the club made flower boxes for the home and sponsored teas for the residents there.

A fundraising plant sale every May helps to comprise their small budget, which is spent largely in donations to the same associations and organizations made by the other clubs.

Field trips to Gore Place in Waltham, a federal house, complete with herb garden and orchard and an outing to the Cape are on the agenda of activities for the upcoming summer season.

"Members are very active in their own yards," Mrs.

Shea said. "They have a lot of experience and a lot to teach other members."

The Council of Garden Clubs is a liaison council designed to coordinate the activities of the three garden clubs. Meetings are comprised of the conservation chairmen and the presidents of each club, and chairmanship, currently held by Mrs. Sturdy for the Community Garden Club, rotates between clubs every few years. The Council is responsible for the upkeep and planting of the Veterans Memorial Park that overlooks the harbor. They are currently planning a Cohasset Litter Day program, but have not yet decided a definitive date for the cleanup project.

A town as lovely as Cohasset didn't get that way by accident. Although most of the club's activities mentioned here involved gardening around a publicly-viewed building, the grounds of private homes bespeak the silent, unapplauded, and devoted gardening of those who practice their expertise in their own backyards, and who contribute to the beauty of the town.

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Something really new ... to encourage the Cohasset craftspeople, handmade items will be shown in the window. Potholders, towels, macrame, etc. Bring your items in.

Presently there is a beautiful quilted double bed coverlet with pillow sham \$99.50 made by Laura De Sagredo of Cohasset.

Need some "Recipes For The Week" from all you good cooks out there. This week's recipe is Portuguese chicken, which will be served at the Portuguese Festival, May 19th.

## COOKWORKS

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